

Chicago

JOINT SESSION

June 12th,
1945

Negro American League represented by: Ernie Wright and Wilbur Hayes, Cleveland; W. S. Welch and Tom Hayes, Birmingham, Black Barons; Dr. W. S. and Dr. B. B. Martin of Memphis Red Socks; Dr. J. B. Martin of the Chicago American Giants and League President; Abe Saperstein, representing Birmingham Black Barons; J. W. Wilkinson and Tom Baird of the Kansas City Monarchs; Syd Pollock of the Cincinnati Clowns; Frank A. Young, Secretary.

Negro National League represented by: Alex Pompey, New York Cuban Stars; Tom Wilson, Nashville, President of the League; Mrs. Effa Manley, New York Eagles; Ed Gottlieb and Ed Bolden of the Philadelphia Stars; Bill Leuschner, New York Black Elks; Vernon Green, Baltimore Elite Giants; Cum. Posey and Rufus Jackson, Washington Homestead Grays.

Dr. J. B. Martin, President of the Negro American League, presided as chairman of the meeting. Frank A. Young, Secretary of the Negro American League was named secretary of the meeting.

Dr. W. S. Martin of Memphis asked for the minutes of the last meeting. Minutes were read. Dr. W. S. Martin moved to adopt the minutes with Ernie Wright seconding. Minutes were adopted.

Question: on whose property Quincy Troupe is. Question not settled.

Tom Wilson, President of the Eastern group, spoke for three minutes asking for a harmonious meeting.

Question: on Mexican representatives now lurking in Chicago with headquarters at the Roosevelt Hotel taken up. Mexicans are after taking star players from both Leagues to play in Mexico. Long discussion. No action taken.

Suggestion on new form of contracts for ball players in both Leagues taken up.

Posey: brought up status of five players suspended by Cincinnati; also on players belonging to the Philadelphia Stars who are now with the Hilldale Club of the new United States League. President Martin was asked to inform his League on the Hilldale players, who are Stanley Glenn, a catcher; Hubert Glenn, pitcher; Henry Miller, a pitcher; and Henry Spear Manning, third baseman.

Mrs. Manley given the floor to explain in detail her observations as the only Negro club owner outside of the new United States League who was present among the new League owners and twenty

newspapermen in Branch Rickey's office in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Gottlieb: Suggested a committee of two players and two club members to wait on Rickey, President Fred Frick and President Harridge in order to ascertain what these three men expected from the two older Leagues who have sacrificed so much for Negro baseball.

Posey: Talks on Clark Griffith's stand on the Rickey statement on colored baseball.

Letter from Sam Lacy, Sports Editor of the Baltimore Afro-America, read in which he states that he had been named by Secretary O'Connor of the baseball commissioner's office to work out a plan to perfect Negro baseball, said meeting at which Lacy claims he spoke was held on April 23rd in Cleveland. Lacy's letter claimed that a committee of his own choosing would be augmented by one member selected by the joint committee. He named Judge Joseph Rainey of Philadelphia and Judge Miles Paige of New York as the two members of his committee. Lacy's letter received no favorable action but Chairman Martin was instructed to answer it saying that it had been received and read.

Question of commissioner brought up by Dr. B. B. Martin. Posey named Judge Wm. C. Huston of Washington, D. C. as the East's candidate for baseball commissioner. Dr. W. S. Martin nominated Robert R. Church. Dr. W. S. Martin withdrew his nomination. Posey asked if the election is to be by popular vote or by 2/3 rule.

Rufus Jackson: moved that 3/4 of the 12 votes, or 9, would elect. Mrs. Manley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dr. W. S. Martin again moved that Church be elected commissioner, seconded by Syd Pollock. Rufus Jackson moved that Judge Huston be the candidate for the East, seconded by Ed Bolden.

Question of salary. Again it was brought out that Church was willing to serve as a dollar-a-year man.

Gottlieb: Suggestion \$2400.00 a year. Other suggestions ranged up to \$4,000.00.

Dr. B. B. Martin moved that nominations be closed, seconded by W. S. Martin.

The voting: Votes were taken by written ballot, counted by the Secretary. Church received 7 votes, Huston 5. No election. Efforts to get a motion for a second balloting failed.

East-West game date named as Sunday, July 29th at Comiskey Park, Chicago. In event of rain, said game will be played Monday night, July 30th.

Game will be handled same as in 1944 with the exception of ticket prices which have been changed to the following: \$3.00 for box seats, including tax; \$2.00 for grand stand seats, including tax; \$1.00 for bleacher seats including tax.

Jackson: Motion that no all-star game be played separately in East or West or in East vs. West games.

Motion: by Gottlieb and seconded by Pompey to table the motion until the next day.

Motion: by Gottlieb that no club of either League is to play any club which is a member of the new United States League, or in any park which is under the promotion of any club owner in the United States League. Seconded by Welch. Tom Baird offered an amendment not to play in parks of outlaw clubs or promoters. Amendment withdrawn.

Wright: No team in National or American League play Southern League clubs. W. S. Martin seconded. Question by Welch of Birmingham on Knoxville which has four Black Baron players. Also McKinnes of the Chicago American Giants. Question on Hyde and Canady of the Memphis Club who jumped to the Little Rock club but who are now back with Memphis.

Dr. Martin: What about games already booked?

Chair recognized Tom Wilson who suggested that Dr. R. B. Jackson, President of the Southern League be called in and told that all players under contract in National or American League must be sent back to their respective clubs who hold contracts or that the Southern League clubs will not be played by any Negro National or Negro American.

By common consent the meeting was adjourned until June 13th.

JUNE 13, 1945.

Motion: by Tom Baird and seconded by Wilbur Hayes putting the East vs. West up to Dr. J. B. Martin who was acting as chairman. Dr. J. B. Martin declared the game ought to be played and that he was positive that the Office of Defense Transportation in Washington would not interfere with the game, especially since the release of two daily newspapers saying that the ODT had given the green light on the all-star game.

James E. Wardsworth of Indiana was introduced. Mr. Jackson of the Negro Sport News in Washington, D. C. was introduced. He made a lengthy talk on the sports news and the new plan to relieve juvenile delinquency in the various cities. He asked that a special week be recognized and funds from all games played that week be given to a fund to continue the work.

Tom Baird of Kansas City called attention to the fact that \$400 was taken up for the United Negro College drive at a game in Kansas City by young women who passed around collection boxes. Dr. Martin, acting as chairman, told Mr. Jackson that the joint session would consider his proposal and let him know later.

Posey: Discussed the qualifications of Jackson saying that he is a graduate of the Springfield, Mass. YMCA College. Jackson asked the joint session to take the entire matter on its merits and merits alone. Jackson was excluded from the meeting.

Letters from the Office of Defense Transportation in Washington on the all-star game read.

W. S. Welch brings up the subject of money to be paid the participating players in the all-star game on July 29th. Gottlieb suggested \$300 per player and 18 players and one manager to each club.

Baird: Suggested two catchers, five pitchers, five infielders, four outfielders, one manager. Coaches would have to be from the list of 18 players.

Vernon Green: Motion that \$100 be allowed to each player and clubs to be allowed \$300. each to be split among players who were not chosen to play in the game. Seconded by Wilbur Hayes. Motion carried.

Lengthy discussion then followed as to whether each club would be held strictly to the \$300. limit or not. Rufus Jackson contended that the \$300 for each club coming off the top of the game should be split among the players not chosen but if any club owner decided that he wanted to pay any player more than \$100 allotted by the East-West game committee, it was the privilege of that club owner to do so. He also declared that that same amount although paid for the player could be deducted by the club owner from that player's salary.

Question of St. Louis park asking 40% for games played was taken up. Dr. B. B. Martin moved for committee to investigate St. Louis after both Tom Baird and Gottlieb explained that efforts were being made to get the Kansas City Monarchs and the Philadelphia Stars to play a game against worthy opponents in St. Louis by Hank Rigney of Toledo and a member of the new United States League.

Motion: to adjourn made by Dr. B. B. Martin and seconded by Tom Hayes.

Frank A. Young
Secretary